A true Copy Of a Letter ſent by the Prince of Parma to the generall States of the lowe Cuntries, aſſembled at *Antwerpe.*

With their Aunſwere to the ſame the xii. day of March. 1579.

¶ **Tranſlated out of French into**
Dutch, and from the Dutch
into **Engliſh.**

According to the Dutch Copye,
printed at Antwerpe *by* Chriſtopher
Plantyn, **Printer to the Kings**
Maieſtie.

The copye of the Prince of Parma his Letter.

MY Lords, for that
we haue cauſed a trea-
tie to be made with di-
uerſe of the particular
Prouinces concerning the matter of
reconcilliation with his Maieſtye,
nd fynding the ſame well inclined
hereto, albeit their deſyre is, that it
hould rather proceed from you that
re aſſembled at Antwerpe (his Ma-
eſties intention and ours concur-
ing therewith.) We haue thought
good to aduertiſe you of the ſame his
good meaning, that in caſe you haue
ny deſire to do the like with conue-
nient expedition: (yet lying in you ei-
ther to hynder or further all thoſe
harmes, wronges and oppreſſions,
which theſe preſent wars do bring)
you would ſignify your meaning vn-
to

to vs. Aſſuring you that on our b exp
halfe there ſhalbe no defaulte, as h ou
therto there hath not, to proceed ein
therein with all ſinceritie and vp ing
rightnes. Preſenting in the name tra
his Maieſty: and the foreſayde Pro s,
uinces in particuler; to ratify and a
ſtabliſh the pacification of Gaunt, th ec
Vnitye which folowed and the perpe fe
tuall Acte and Edicte in all Articles e
and pointes therof, and to giue ſuch ins
aſſurance in that behalfe, as reaſon il
nably may be demaunded, conditio a
nally that only the exerciſe of the ca
tholike Romaine Religion, and dutie y
full obedience to his Maieſty be ob th
ſerued and kept; as it was in ẏ time y.
of the late Emperour of bleſſed me e
mory Charles the fifth. And as your e
ſelues haue [illegible] your
[illegible] by his Maieſty and p[illegible]
by ſo many Writinges and Letters,
and we [illegible] by all godly and pru
[illegible] lawes you are bounde, with-

out

expecting any further matters
our handes. Conſidering that
ein conſiſteth the perfect ſtay and
ing of theſe cruell Warres, and
tranquilitie & eaſe of theſe Coun-
s, which his Maieſty and we do
and regarde, and you as good
iects ought to endeuour to pro-
e for their ſafeties and your own
nefits. Requiring you openly and
inely, and with expedition to ad-
tiſe vs which of the Prouinces
accept or refuſe this offer, that
rvpon we may take order to im-
y our ſelues as ſhalbe expedient
the ſeruice of God and his Ma-
y. Thus (my Lordes) the Lorde
e you in his keeping. Written at
erſhem the xii. of March. 1579.

Subſcribed. Alexander.
And below. F. le Vaſſeur.

The Superſcription.

To my Lords the Deputies of the
Prouinces aſſembled at Antwerp.

The anſwer of the generall States, to the Prince of Parma his Letters.

MY Lord, we haue receyued your Letters dated the xiii of this inſtant March, touching the agreements of the Prouinces, with our ſoueraigne Lorde the King of Spaine: For anſwere wherunto, we aduertiſe your excellency, that in regard of vs there hath not bin any duty or good occaſion omitted that might tend to the concluding of a good & aſſured peace, as by our actions may plainely appeare to the whole world. For in the moneth of Auguſt laſt, the Ambaſſadours of the imperial Maieſtie, of the king of Fraunce and the Queene of England being aſſembled with our

Deputies at Colein a place of th appointment of the late Lorde Do Ihon of Auſtriche, with good hope t conclude a peace. The cauſe was i good forwardneſſe, and like to ſucceede to a good effect. Howbeit th King of Spaine, tooke the matter ou of the handes of the ſaide Don Ihon o Auſtriche, and referred the treati and negotiation thereof to the Imperiall Maieſty. Whereuppon for that no endevour on our behalf ſhould be wanted, which might be availeable to the furtherance of peace, the Earle of Swartzenbergh Ambaſſadour to the Emperours Maieſty, by our conſent and requeſt, came yet twice to your excellency to treate and pacify the diſagrement betwixt the Kinges Maieſty and thoſe Countries, according to the meaning & aſſent of the King of Spaine, and our ſubmiſſion. But notwithſtanding all his endevour employed therein, we finde that your

excel-

excellencye, was not onely there reſiding; but alſo the deuer to oppoſe your letres to the ſame, entretaynyng the ſayde Ambaſſadour with many delayes, and in ſteade of vpright dealyng with ye generally touching the ſayde treaty of peace, practiſed by meanes therof and by indirect and pretenſed treatynges, to procure a ſeperacion and diuiſion of the Prynces: So that we cannot perceaue any reaſon that your excellency hath to ſaye, that the ſame hath not ben in any faulte to agree to a good peace with all oportunitie and thys treaty. Neyther can we ſee by what meanes your excellencie can diſcharge your cauſe ether before the worlde or [illegible] ſpecially [illegible] Ambaſſadour, or before God and the whole world, for the manifeſt ſuſpicions and ſiniſter dealynges vſed in yͤ matter. Which are encreaſed in all trewly and vpright hartes:

partes: by reaſon that (the king of Spaine hauing openly reuoked, diſallowed, and diſannulled the pacification of Gaunt, when the Countries might and greatly deſired to obſerue and keepe the ſame.) Your excellency now in this time after ſo many alterations and troubles preſenteth againe by the aforeſaid Letter, the ratification of the ſame peace with this condition, that the onely exerciſe of the Catholike Romiſh Religion and the dutiful obedience to his Maieſty ſhould be maintained and obſerued: as it was in the time of the late Emperour Charles: the which is altogether contrary vnto the foreſaide pacification and a manifeſt breach thereof, and ſuch as al the States in generall haue found to be directly againſt the common wealth and other Countries. For that in the time of the late ſaide Emperour Charles, the cruell burninges, Statutes and other

Rigors

Rigours were in ſuche ſorte and ſo ſharplye executed for the preſeruation and defending of the foreſaid exerciſe of the Romiſh Religion, that the foreſaide Eſtates generally, and with one common accorde, for the maintenance of the profitable trade and trafficke of merchandize with other Countries that were for their benefit, were conſtrained to procure ẏ ſame to be mitigated & releaſed.

Whereby your excellencie may wel perceyue, what proceedings and effectes we may hope for, by meanes of ſuch perſecutions which are impoſſible to be practiſed or put in effect. Being moſte ſorye that a caſe of ſo great waighte and importance proceedeth not with more ſpeede and diſcretion. Notwithſtanding we expreſſe our good willes and ready affections to the peace, we are ſtill content according to the offer of the imperiall Maieſtye and conſent of the

King

King of Spaine that the ſame ſhalbe negotiated and treated by the ſayde Ambaſſador, whyle the oportunitye of the affaires of theſe parties, and the treaties whereunto we are entred, which others ſhall permitte the ſame: yet if your excellencie hath an earneſt & zealous meaning to make a ſhort treatie and concluſion, and to reduce the matter to a good end and aſſuredneſſe, it may pleaſe the ſame by vertue of his authoritye without ſo many delayes and extremityes to take a ſhorter way to make proviſion againſt the deſtruction & oppreſſion of the countryes ſo greatly and ſo long time afflicted, agreeing with ſome treatye and conditions to that ſuch as would be the proſperitye and reſt of the ſubiectes and inhabitantes of the ſame, by the generall States and conſultations which are to be holden and vſed in that behalfe according to equitie and reaſon. And we

for

for our partes (if your excellencye through longe delaye henceforth doo not hinder all occaſions and commodities to doo the ſame) will not faile to harken to all reaſonable condicions, for the performance whereof we may haue good aſſuraunce and warrant. Proteſting as we haue already proteſted to the Barron of Selles and others, that all inconueniencies & alterations which hereafter may happen, ſhalbe knowen, which with purſuing of warres againſt theſe Cuntryes, doo giue occaſion of greater miſtruſting, miſliking and alterations of the ſubiects. With this we praye the almightye God (my Lord) to haue your excellencie in his keeping. From Antwarp the .xix. of Marche, 1578.

The generall States of the lowe
Countries.

The

By the ordinaunce of vs the Lordes the generall ſtates.

Vnderwritten. A. Blyleuen.

The Superſcription.

To my Lord: my Lord the Prince of Parma.

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BIBLIOTHECA
LAMBETHANA

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